

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01685 270840Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /073 W
-----014483 270854Z /12

R 270810Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8841
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1685

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC PORS PDIP LA JA
SUBJECT: MURDER OF JAPANESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND WIFE

REF: VIENTIANE 1679

1. LAO RADIO MONITORED AT 1300 HOURS DECEMBER 27 LOCAL TIME ANNOUNCED THAT "BANDITS" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF JAPANESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SEIICHI SUGIE AND HIS WIFE (REFTEL). THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONTINUING. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY CALLED JAPANESE RESIDENTS OF VIENTIANE TOGETHER THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 25 TO INFORM THEM OF THE MURDERS, AND THE EMBASSY INFORMED FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE "TRAGIC DEATHS" IN A CIRCULAR NOTE DECEMBER 26.

2. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY DESCRIBED THE MURDERS AS VERY BRUTAL. AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT NO GUNS WERE USED, ONLY "SWORDS." MR. SUGIE WAS REPORTEDLY STABBED EIGHTEEN TIMES AND HIS WIFE, WHOSE HANDS WERE TIED,
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FIFTEEN TIMES. MRS. SUGIE WAS PREGNANT.

3. LAO AUTHORITIES HAVE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED THE SUGIES' THREE LAO SERVANTS AND ARE SEARCHING FOR TWO FORMER DRIVERS. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THUS FAR INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH THE HOUSE WAS RANSACKED, NOTHING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN.

4. THE CHARGE PAID HIS RESPECTS AT THE JAPANESE RESIDENCE THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 26 AS DID ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S SECOND SECRETARIES. OUR OTHER SECOND SECRETARY WILL PAY HER RESPECTS TODAY UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND THE SUGIES' PARENTS.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION IN THE COMMUNITY AS TO THE MOTIVE AND IDENTITY OF THE MURDERER (S). THE LAO AUTHORITIES' ARREST OF THE SUGIES' SERVANTS IS COMMON PROCEDURE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OF ANY EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE SERVANTS AS THE ASSASSINS.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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